3/24/68

Dear Paul,

I have four mailings from you I have not been able to acknowledge. These are a copy of Bruce Lewis' letter to Tom Bethell on his visit to the Hoover Institute, with list and enclosure; your March 4 memo and Bahmer's March 8 letter; your March 4 letter to me with fascinating attachment on Spencer; and your letter of March 31 to Tom.

I haven't been able to catch up on even the mail since I saw you. As soon as I returned my wife sprained her ankle badly. It is now out of the cast but still pains her and makes motion difficult. She will suffer from it not less than six more months, the doctor predicts, quite possibly permanently (which will slow us both down more). As soon as she could get around in a walking cast Jim asked me to go back to New Orleans. He then asked me to stay a little longer, which I did. Salembra came back with me and we are still working together. ..At this appropriate point he arrived about nine hours ago and we went over some of my taped interviews. I showed him the copies of Document 179 you sent (it is incomplete, ending in the second page in midsentence) which, predictably, he was unaware of. Although Jim has this in his files, I also gave Moorman a copy. It fits perfectly with the Deslatte Report (O in N.O. 101-2)

While I am on this, I have no other documents on Oswald's activities save a few on places he allegedly sought employment that I'll not have time to dig out for several days. One, I think, was a shoe store. I do have other things as a result of my own investigation that I'll try and find time to send you, particularly a possible new perspective from Dean Andrews, who is now my buddy despite the fact that he credits me with helping convict him. I'm doing a three-hour TV show tomorrow night, work with Moorman again then, and it is now bed-time and I've not laid aside what I need for the show.

With reference to Bahmer's 2/7 and 3/8 letters and your quite pertinent 3/14 memo, I have tried without success to accomplish the changes in that is being said you clearly indicate you want. However, Mark was their fastest with the mostest and the least scruple and it is not easy. I have been working on it and I will again, but it casts me in the role of Canute.

From my reading of the testimony and from what Andrews has reaffirmed to me, I do not believe the second man 8/9/63 was Hernandez in mistaken position. A. remains specific and vehement on the "fist-city" Mexican. He also says that Oswald and the Cuban guys were in his office at the same time but not together, and that the Mexican was with him in the office five times. Also, Hernandez has a pretty unforgettable face, much older than O. What leads you and Stan to this conclusion? I am not willing to believe O was alone for other reasons, like the new witnesses I have placing Oswald with still another Mexican, not the man of Andrews' description. On this point, for a number of reasons I'd like you to consider not selfishness, I mention what I today wrote Mal, about sending you people some material for you alone, for you to know and use as possible in your reasearch but not to give to others writing in the field. Some of this I have already promised to a magazine. Some I just do not want misused. Some I want confidential. And when you learn what I know about some of the other writers, you will perhaps understand why I do not want to give them my material. If you are in accord, as soon as I can after I hear from you I will send you some more on the National States Rights Party-Minutemen situation, etc. I took the two memos you gave me to LA and gave them to the boys there for their information. I then took my copies to give to Jim

not because Tom didn't have it but because he might not have known about it and because we have been going relative to it that he didn't know about. To my surprise, when I started telling him about what you people are doing and about it I learned that a west-coast writer had obtained copies in LA and gave them to him as his own work. Among other things, this tends to mask from him knowledge of what others are doing and to deny him an appraisal of the value of that work, one of the end products being the reduction of his confidence in that work.

I ramble too much, a luxury the shortness of time does not justify. Your 344 memo is excellent. May I add for your consideration the fact that my own investigation discloses evidence that the FBI visited Banister's office in those days as regularly as a dog makes the rounds of his garbage pails. One witness, for example, told me that Regis Kennedy alone was there almost daily (perhaps explaining why Wall got that assignment). I can place either Orlando Piedra or Aureliano Batista (without checking my notes I'm not certain) there, and Tony Varona....Bartes, by the way, was CIA. He flew planes in the Congo in 1965 and still, quite obviously, considers him self under its protection. I had a fascinating couple of hours with him....I wish you guys could arrange a paying appearance for me so I can fly out there and spend an evening with you bringing you all up to date on what I have learned. Some of my recent work has been the most exciting. It is astounding the kind of people who now trust me. Of all I have tried to see, only one has demurred. I could have seen him but because of his attitude and the alternatives in the limited time I didn't. That was Emanuel Gil, who has just been fired by Schwermann's he says because his name is in a "controversial book", I in N.O....May I suggest that the real purposes of the Wall reports was to permit answer to the question Have you looked into_____:" with an affirmative. Did the FBI have to interview Bartes to learn that the DRC, organized by the CIA, was an anti-Castro group? Or that Banister had but the slightest acquaintance with the men for whom he arranged office space? Etc. Incidently, I now learn that besides Arcacha, at least Ferrie and probably Banister got hold of the Crusade money that came there. Some N.O. Cubans believe Arcacha knocked down $88,000!

Sorry I cannot not continue, for there is much more. Please excuse the haste, and I hope you do not have too much trouble with the typos. When you get the rest of CD 173, please send me two copies and I'll complete Mecunes's personal copy,too.

Oh, yes. I didn't have time to look Cesariego up this time. I'm told one of the investigators did see him after I left last time. That means if C knows anything it is still unknown, for the police investigators do not understand this kind of thing. That is the same guy, Isaac. If you have another copy of the picture, please send it. He is in many ways interesting, not only because he broadcast the propaganda while CIA was paying for it. He is now teaching in a Catholic school. If it is only the Xerox, you sent me that but it is not adequate for identification purposes, for showing to witnesses. I have heard he was at the 8.9.63 caper, which would certainly be interesting! And from the Xerox he looks Mexican, to me, and the haricut is kind of like a "Butch"!...And the Free Cuba Committee was heavily financed by CIA. Do I not have this in C in N.O.....If you have extra copies of the Nagell clips, I'd like that, too. Gary Schoener, who has been working on this, should have been in touch with Hal by now.

Best to all,